Bombay has since been sanctioned and paid a reward of Rs. 40,000/-. The reward is purely an ex-gratia payment and is granted on the absolute discretion of the competent authority and cannot be claimed as a matter of right. In determining the reward the competent authority keeps in mind various factors such as the specificity and accuracy of the information, the risk and trouble undertaken, the extent and nature of help rendered by the informer, whether the information gives clues to persons involved in smuggling or their associates etc., before determining the amount of reward to be given in a particular case. In the present case, the competent authority has concluded that Rs. 40,000/- was adequate as reward to Shri Minoo Khodabadna Irani.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh for construction of court buildings

1963. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of funds allotted to Andhra Pradesh Government for the construction of new court buildings during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during 1989-90 keeping in view the old and damaged court buildings; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A sum of Rs. 249.49 lakhs was allocated for construction of court buildings during 1985—89.

(b) and (c) The Ninth Finance Commission has recommended an outlay of Rs. 165 lakhs for 1989-90.

Allegations against United Bank of India Branch Tripura

1964. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the United Bank of India has received any representation from the Leader of the Opposition, Tripura Assembly, against the alleged corrupt and illegal practices adopted in Tripura by the branches while identifying the beneficiaries and issuing loans under the blanket schemes of loan mela; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the said representation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). United Bank of India have reported that they received a letter dated 5th November, 1988 from Shri Nripen Chakraborty, Leader of the Opposition, Tripura Legislative Assembly. In this letter he had drawn attention to the judgement of Guwahati High Court and Reserve Bank of India's guidelines and ground rules to be observed while selecting beneficiaries and sought clarification on the position of the bank as the Lead Bank in conducting crash credit delivery programme in November, 1988.

The Chairman of the United Bank of India, in his letter dated 18th November, 1988 addressed to Shri Nripen Chakraborty clarified that banks in Tripura, in conducting the crash credit delivery programme on an on going basis for the benefit of the poor are only acting in the public interest and these programmes are not at all violative of the observations of the High Court of Guwahati. He had further pointed out that Crash Credit Delivery Programmes are being periodically organised in the State on the basis of modalities worked out in consultation with State Level Bankers' Committee. In so far as banks are concerned, processing of the proposals and the final disposal of the ap-